

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2855
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2438

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON ENRG AS
SUBJECT: ENERGY INITIATIVES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO
THE ASEAN AREA

REF: (A) STATE 082633, (B) CANBERRA 02399, (C) STATE 079788

1. WITHOUT TALKING TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE GOA,
IT IS DIFFICULT TO COME UP WITH PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS AS
TO HOW AUSTRALIA MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO EXPAND ITS EFFORTS
IN REGIONAL ENERGY ACTIVITIES.

2. THIS BEING SAID, HOWEVER, WE SEE POSSIBILITIES FOR
EXPANDED TRAINING IN THE ENERGY FIELD UNDER AUSTRALIAN
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH AUSTRALIAN
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BUREAU (ADAB) WOULD OF COURSE HAVE
TO CONSULT WITH RECIPIENT COUNTRIES AND BALANCE TRAINING
IN THIS AREA WITH TRAINING PRIORITIES IN OTHER AREAS
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23 (92, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GOA HAS IN FACT PROVIDED
LOW-KEY, LOW-BUDGET TRAINING TO GEOLOGIST FROM FIJI
AND TONGA. AT SUCH TIME AS AUSTRALIA'S LANDSAT STATION GOES
ON STREAM, GOA MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO OFFER
SOPHISTICATED TRAINING ASSISTANCE IN SUCH AREAS AS
REMOTE-SENSING. ADAB CURRENTLY OFFERS TRAINING UNDER
FOLLOWING PROGRAMS: COLOMBO PLAN (CP), THE SOUTH

PACIFIC AID PROGRAM (SPAP), THE SPECIAL COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN ASSISTANCE PLAN (SCAAP), THE AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL AWARDS SCHEME (AIAS), THE COMMONWEALTH COOPERATION IN EDUCATION SCHEME (CCES), AND THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES COOPERATION SCHEME (AUCS). AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE TRAINING OF GOVERNMENT SPONSORED STUDENTS AND TRAINEES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BOTH IN AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS, WILL TOTAL A DOLS 15.8 MILLION IN FY-1978 COMPARED TO A DOLS 13.5 MILLION IN FY-77.

3. AUSTRALIA HAS A MODEST PROGRAM OF COOPERATIVE PROJECTS WITH THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE TO IDENTIFY PROJECTS SUITABLE TO AND ACCEPTABLE BY ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH WE SUSPECT THAT PREFERENCE FOR SUCH COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IS CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN TO THE AGRICULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL FIELDS (E.G., A CURRENT PROJECT IN POST HARVEST TECHNOLOGY), IN THE FUTURE SOMETHING MIGHT BE DONE IN THE ENERGY FIELD. FIELD OF SOLAR ENERGY WOULD APPEAR TO OFFER BEST POSSIBILITIES AS IT CAN BE MOST CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH NEEDS OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF AUSTRALIAN AID, ASEAN COOPERATIVE PROGRAM CAME TO A DOLS 2 MILLION IN FY-77 AND A DOLS 2.3 MILLION IN FY-78.

4. WE ARE AWARE OF FACT THAT SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS
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BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS AND DIVISION OF NATIONAL MAPPING MORE OR LESS REGULARLY "SECOND" OFFICERS TO WORK FOR GREATER OR LESSER PERIODS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF FRASER GOVERNMENT'S STRICT CONTROLS ON GOVERNMENTAL SPENDING, SUCH ACTIVITIES PERHAPS COULD BE EXPANDED.

5. FINALLY, GOA IS OF COURSE INTERESTED IN SELLING INCREASED AMOUNTS OF URANIUM ORE (AND PERHAPS ENRICHED MATERIALS IN THE FUTURE) IN THE REGION AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE, WITH THE PROPER SAFEGUARDS OF COURSE.

6. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE REALIZED THAT FOREGOING IS ALL EXTREMELY "IFFY" AND "SMALL-POTATOES", BUT GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM AND AUSTRALIA'S OWN DEEP CONCENTRATION ON ITS OWN ENERGY PROBLEMS, WE DON'T SEE HOW AUSTRALIA CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE A VERY LARGE CONTRIBUTION IN THIS FIELD.
ALSTON

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